

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance, in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner indicated that Claims 1, 6, 13, and 18 contained specific terms that lacked proper antecedent basis. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 6, 13, and 18 to provide proper antecedent basis for the terms specified by the Examiner. All amendments are for correcting the lack of antecedent basis only. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-24 are now definite in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-24, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Bundling Machine 327 of Müller Martini reference previously submitted by the Applicant with an Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Independent Claim 1 recites “a horizontally and vertically displaceable clamp ... wherein the clamp compresses the stack at ends of the stack and transfers a strapped stack from the stack support to an adjacent intermediate deposit.” Independent Claim 13 recites “a horizontally and vertically movable clamp ... wherein the clamp compresses the stack at ends of the stack and transfers the stack from the stack support via an adjacent strapping station to a following intermediate deposit.” Such features are

neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited reference. The attached Reference Figure A is a copy of the cited reference, marked up to help illustrate this point. One can see in the illustration at the Bundling Machine (reference numeral 2) a stack of hoop-encased signatures positioned on the stack support of the machine. The compression gripper is shown in a non-operational position. The stack is removed from the stack support by a person operating a gripper that is suspended from a crane. The gripper shown for removing the stack is a separate gripper from the compression gripper. This reference does not disclose or suggest a horizontally and vertically displaceable clamp that compresses the stack and transfers a strapped stack, as recited in Claim 1. Similarly, it does not disclose or suggest a horizontally and vertically movable clamp that compresses the stack and transfers the stack, as recited in Claim 13.

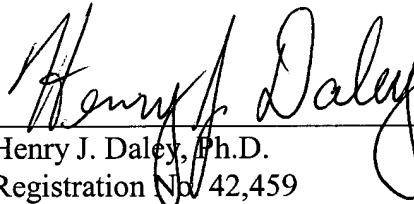
Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 13 are in condition for allowance, and requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn. Furthermore, Claims 2-12 depend either directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1, and Claims 14-24 depend either directly or indirectly from independent Claim 13. Applicant thus respectfully submits that all of Claims 1-24 are in condition for allowance, and requests that the rejection of Claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Applicant has addressed all of the Examiner's objections and rejections, and respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant: Christof KELLER  
Application No. 10/609,372

Applicant's representative encourages the Examiner to contact him at the below-listed number if it may help to advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry J. Daley", is written over a horizontal line.

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